Education for masses

*218. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether students with 90 per cent marks find no place in the admission list of various colleges, higher educational institutes and top professional courses;

(b) whether this is due to educational opportunities having not grown in line with economy and even the private sector has failed so far to make a dent in this area; and

(c) if so, the action Government propose to take to provide education for masses and reduce the rising cut offs in colleges, as besides professionals, the country also needs middle level workers with median salaries and all kinds of qualifications, who are doing well in the rising economy?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (c) The percentage of marks required for admission to various courses in different universities/colleges is decided by the academic bodies of the respective universities. This information is not being maintained centrally. The educational opportunities have grown in the country and there are a large number of universities and colleges in the country today. Private investment has taken place in a big way in the professional educational institutions. Subject to the availability of funds, the Government is committed to expand educational opportunities in the country during the Eleven Plan by opening new institutions and expanding the capacity of existing ones. Besides, skill development which include training in various vocational certificate and diploma courses, will also be taken up in a big way during the Eleventh Plan, subject to availability of funds.

Working of NIOH, Kolkata

*219 SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to allow the National Institute for the Orthopaedically Handicapped (NIOH), Kolkata to develop as a multi-campus institution;

(b) whether there is any demand at present to replicate the outreach programme of the institute directly in remote areas of the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the funds allocated for this purpose for 2007-08; and

(e) the measures proposed to expand such outreach activities?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR): (a) NIOH is already having regional centres at Dehradun and Aizwal.

(b) to (e) The outreach activities are planned every year on assessment of requirements. They are undertaken from the funds allocated for the model rehabilitation camps.

Survey by NUEPA

†*220. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the report of survey conducted by National University of Educational Planning and Administration (NUEPA);

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government are not serious regarding the target of total literacy;

(d) if not, who is responsible for the said situation; and

(e) the action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In recent years, the National University of Educational Planning and Administration (NUEPA), formerly the National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (NIEPA), has conducted only one survey, namely the District Information System for Education (DISE). Data collected through DISE as on 30.9.2005 have been published by NUEPA in their Report titled, ''Elementary Education in India: Analytical Report 2005-06''. The data collected under DISE reveals that there is consistent improvement in facilities in the schools as well as increase in enrolment and girls' enrolment in particular.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Adult literacy is being promoted through the National Literacy Mission which is imparting functional literacy to adult illiterates. So far various literacy programmes have covered 597 districts out of 600 districts. In addition, the Central Government in collaboration with the State Governments is implementing the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan for universalisation of elementary education in the age group of 6-14 years. A Plan allocation of Rs.18,626 crores and Rs.401 crores has been made for Elementary Education and Adult Education respectively for the current year of 2007-08. A total allocation of Rs.32,354.22 crores has been made for the Ministry of Human Resource Development during the current year 2007-08 as against Rs.24,114.98 crores for the year 2006-07. The literacy rate in the country has gone up from 18.3% in 1951 to 67.3% in 2005.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.